

Minutes of the Noise By-Law Review Committee  
Selectmen's Conference Room  
March 19, 2015 7:00 PM

At 7:06 PM Selectman Ben Franco, serving as chair, called the meeting to order.

Mr. Franco thanked members of the committee for volunteering their time to help the Town review and, possibly, improve its handling of excess noise. Mr. Franco asked that committee members briefly introduce themselves and tell the group why they requested to be appointed to the committee.

(Committee members went around the table and introduced themselves.)

Mr. Franco informed members they need to be sworn by the Town Clerk and complete Open Meeting Law training. Mr. Franco requested that all committee members be sworn in by the next time the group meets so formal votes can be taken (if necessary). Committee members were told to call the Town Clerk to schedule a time to be sworn in and to contact Town Counsel to inquire about the next available Open Meeting Law training.

Mr. Franco set out his goals for the meeting:

- 1) To obtain consensus on how this committee should carry out its charge
- 2) Set a recurring schedule for meetings

Mr. Franco then reviewed the history of how the committee came to be created and what the Selectmen have charged the committee with doing.

After discussion, the committee agreed that they would like to hear from the following department heads:

- The Police Chief about the priority given to noise complaints, the resources the police dedicate to addressing noise complaints, the availability of noise meters, and other enforcement issues
- The Commissioner of Public Works about the process of conducting testing on leaf blowers to ensure they meet the noise limits set out in the leaf blower by-law, whether private contractors' use of leaf blowers creates more work for the DPW, and whether the Commissioner has found a lack of awareness of the Town's restrictions on leaf blower use
- Town Counsel about enforcement issues, the office's experience with enforcement and appeals of citations, and the office's legal opinion about conflicts/ambiguities between the two by-laws in question

The committee also talked about potential outcomes of its work. Two types of potential outcomes received broad support:

- 1) Public Education – such as sending notice to all private contractors about the Town's rules concerning the use of leaf blowers, placing ads in the TAB, utilizing the Town's social media platforms to remind people about leaf blower restrictions

- 2) Recommending revised policies and procedures – making sure the police prioritize noise complaints, making sure noise meters are located in every police car, empowering departments other than the police to issue warning and citations, including information about the noise by-law in additional Town publications

The Committee briefly discussed trying to schedule future meetings, but it was the will of the committee to speak with the department heads who will be appearing first and then circulate dates and times. Mr. Franco agreed to take this task on.

Mr. Franco reminded everyone to get sworn in and complete Open Meeting Law training.

Mr. Franco adjourned the meeting at 8:23 PM.

**Members Present:**

Ben Franco  
Neil Gordon  
Maura Toomey  
Daniel Fishman  
Irene Sharf  
Judy Meyers  
Richard Nangle

**Members Not Present:**

Beth Shuman

**Members of the Public Present:**

None

**Materials Reviewed:**

Charge adopted by the Selectmen of the noise by-law review committee  
Article 8.15 of the Town's general by-laws (noise control)  
Article 8.31 of the Town's general by-laws (leaf blowers)